

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 14083 301711Z
ACTION ERDA-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6826

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, IT
SUBJECT: ERDA/ENEL LMFBR PROPOSED AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 180508; (B) ROME 12895

DEPT PASS ERDA

1. ING. CASTELLI, DIRECTOR OF ENEL TECHNICAL SECTOR, TOLD EMBASSY THAT ENEL IS STILL VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF CONCLUDING AN LMFBR AGREEMENT WITH ERDA TO BE INCLUDED IN AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT AS DISCUSSED AND PLANNED DURING THE APRIL 6, 1977, VISIT OF ERDA DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR GIAMBUSSO. IN PRELIMINARY TALKS BETWEEN GIAMBUSSO AND ENEL, LATTER SUGGESTED THAT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT MIGHT INCLUDE LMFBR, SOLAR ENERGY, ULTRA-HIGH VOLTAGE (UHV) TRANSMISSION, ELECTRIC CAR DEVELOPMENT AND POSSIBLY THE PRESENT ENEL/ERDA GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AGREEMENT. IT WAS MUTUALLY AGREED AT THAT TIME THAT BOTH PARTIES WOULD PRESENT WITHIN A MONTH OR TWO THE REVIEW OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT OF THE LMFBR AGREEMENT AND CONVERT IT INTO A GENERAL ENERGY AGREEMENT, ENEL WOULD DEVELOP A SPECIFIC PROTOCOL UNDER THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON ENEL'S ACTIVITIES IN THE LMFBR PROGRAM AND ERDA WOULD CONSIDER ENEL'S UHV PROGRAM FOR INCLUSION UNDER THE AGREEMENT. CASTELLI SAID THAT NEITHER ERDA NOR ENEL HAS FOLLOWED THROUGH ON THESE COMMITMENTS. HE ADDED THAT REORGANIZATION OF ENEL'S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR STUDIES AND RESEARCH HAD PREVENTED ENEL FROM DEVELOPING THE DETAILS AND SCOPE OF

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ROME 14083 301711Z

A GENERAL AGREEMENT INCLUDING THEIR LMFBR ACTIVITIES. HE BELIEVED, HOWEVER, THAT ENEL COULD CONTRIBUTE HIGHLY VALUABLE INFORMATION ON THE DESIGN, SPECIFICATIONS, CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF LMFBR WITH DATA AVAILABLE TO ENEL FROM ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPER PHENIX PROJECT. CASTELLI SAID THAT IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO FORMULATE SOME POINTS AND PROPOSALS ON THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT AND DISCUSS

AND CLARIFY THEM WITH EMBASSY BEFORE FORWARDING THEM TO ERDA.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: BEFORE MEETING WITH CASTELLI AGA, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ERDA'S VIEW OF HOW MATTERS STAND IN LIGHT OF CASTELLI'S STATEMENTS (PARA 1 ABOVE) AND GIAMBUSSO TRIP REPORT OF APRIL 1977 (TO WHICH NO REFERENCE WAS MADE IN REF A). SPECIFICALLY, WE SHOULD KNOW WHETHER ERDA HAS A REVIEWED THE DRAFT LMFBR AGREEMENT AND CONVERTED IT INTO A DRAFT GENERAL ENERGY AGREEMENT, (B) AN INTEREST IN ENEL'S UHV PROJECT, AND (C) DEVELOPED A PROTOCOL FOR THE UHV PROJECT.HOLMES

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